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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *(Oct. 2, 2012)*

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- Looks like things are picking up in the construction business. Building and Codes Department issued 50 more permits through August of this year than during the same time in 2009.

According to City Manager Rob Lyons, state sales tax revenues are tracking 7 percent of last year.

Interviews have been completed with developers and engineers as part of the research for the city's One-Stop-Shopping project.

The city's Pension Fund closed out August at \$95.9 million, a new high. Additional diversification is being pursued by an emerging markets fund manager.

Use of the Veterans Administration golf course continues by month-to-month lease. Lyons wrote that "the VA could not assemble its staff for contract negotiations so there will be another extension for the month of October."

City Councilperson Madelyn Scales-Harris, Murfreesboro Police Chief Glenn Chrisman and the City Manager met with the library board to discuss solutions to homeless issues that have developed around the facility. Scott Foster of Journey Home was contacted for help in brainstorming a solution.

An inside tennis facility may become a reality as Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department Director, the City Manager and MTSU Athletic Director Chris Massaro to outline a potential agreement should a grant application submitted by Lyons be successful. Though MTSU has additional money it needs to raise to make the facility reality, a decision is expected in the next 45 days.

The Tennessee City Manager's Association is planning to return to Murfreesboro for its spring conference.

The City and Tennessee Municipal League Bond Fund are nearing completion on a proposed \$46 million fixed rate loan. Lyons says rates have risen slightly recently so the locked in rate of 2.17 percent was probably rock bottom.